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PATENT  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. MBM1270

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Pandian et al. Art Unit: 1634  
Application No.: 09/940,296 Examiner: B.J. Forman  
Filed: August 27, 2001 Conf. No.: 7256  
Title: METHOD OF AMPLIFICATION FOR INCREASING THE SENSITIVITY  
OF DETECTING NUCLEIC ACID-PROBE TARGET HYBRIDS

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

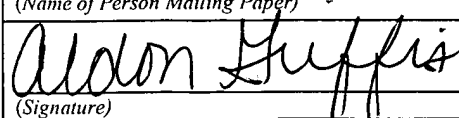
**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION**

Responsive to the Office Action mailed August 2, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.8	
I hereby certify that the documents referred to as enclosed herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on this date, <b>December 28, 2004</b> , in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
Aldon Griffis (Name of Person Mailing Paper)	
 (Signature)	December 28, 2004 (Date)